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January 12, 2016

Supervisor Don Knabe
Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance – NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

The City of Norwalk supports the drafting and adoption of Los Angeles County's Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance.

The proposed ordinance would require the development of Stewardship Plans to address the collection and disposal of unwanted/unused and expired pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents. The ordinance establishes a sustainably-financed program that will provide residents with a convenient means to safely dispose of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals and help to prevent them from entering the environment, reduce their availability for drug abuse and misuse, and reduce injuries associated with sharps being improperly disposed. With access to safe and convenient disposal options, as well as a robust outreach and education program, residents will be more informed of the appropriate collection and disposal methods.

In the last two years, the City of Norwalk lost two of the three drop off sites for pharmaceuticals and sharps waste located in the City. The sole drop off location, the Sheriff's Station, cannot meet the collection and disposal needs of the entire City and the mobile HHW collection events are not always a convenient means of disposal for residents. Having a product collection and disposal stewardship plan in place, to include drop off sites and mail back services, would provide residents with the means to conveniently and safely dispose of unwanted and expired pharmaceuticals and sharps waste.

We understand the County has conducted multiple stakeholder meetings which included representatives from the manufacturers and producers of these materials, retailers, pharmacies, consumer advocacy groups, environmental organizations, waste hauling industry, and others in order to develop the most effective ordinance.

The passage of this ordinance would ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. Our City supports this shared responsibility approach as the costs of managing these materials at the end of their life should not solely come from local jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leonard Shryock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leonard Shryock
Mayor

cc:

Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer, shamai@ceo.lacounty.gov

Angelo J. Bellomo, EPR Working Group, abellomo@ph.lacounty.gov

Kristine Guerrero, Los Angeles County Division, LOCC, kguerrero@cacities.org